

5.0 SUMMARY

5.1. Introduction

This report provides extensive and comprehensive data analysis and interpretation related to HIV/AIDS incidence and prevalence, morbidity and mortality, using data provided by the STD/HIV Program, Communicable and Environmental Disease Services Section, Tennessee Department of Health. The UTK Community Health Research Group (CHRG) has analyzed the data using epidemiologic and demographic techniques to produce this inaugural HIV/AIDS surveillance report. The report contains narratives, data tables and graphics based on analyses and interpretation of data relating to HIV and AIDS. It includes findings, trends, and other relevant information concerning incidence and prevalence of HIV/AIDS cases as well as ongoing serosurveillance data; profiles of risk groups, associated high risk behaviors, and emerging and continuing target populations; and community profiles for county, regional and statewide prevention program planning.

Three fundamental questions are addressed: (1) What is the past and current impact of HIV/AIDS on the population of Tennessee? (2) Who is at risk for becoming infected with HIV? (3) What is the sociodemographic and regional distribution of HIV/AIDS?

Key data sources include the national HIV/AIDS Reporting System (HARS); national, state and local studies of HIV seroprevalence; surveys regarding high risk behavior throughout the State carried out by the TDH Bureau of Health Services; and statewide studies of drug abuse among adults in households, high school students, juvenile offenders and arrestees conducted by the CHRG and sponsored by the TDH Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services.

This report traces the history of HIV/AIDS in the State, and describes recent trends, current impact and potential directions of the disease. Its diverse audience comprises people with HIV/AIDS, medical professionals, HIV prevention planners, community activists, lawmakers and others interested in the course of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the State.

5.2. AIDS in Tennessee: The National Context

By the end of 1995, the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) had documented 513,486 persons with AIDS in the United States, over 62% of whom had died.

Tennessee reported a cumulative total of 4,712 AIDS cases through December 1995. Tennessee ranked twenty-second in the U.S. in cumulative AIDS cases.